

frequently come to them from the ruling classes. The motive of these revolutionaries may have been in some cases sympathy for the oppressed. But the student of character may not unfairly conclude that it has more often been a desire for personal distinction, or the imperious longing for change which dominates some men—especially those whom the routine of industry has not broken into habit. The Roman poor were championed by members of the Roman nobility such as the Gracchi and Catiline. We may indeed surmise that the French revolution would never have come about had revolt not been led by birth and intelligence—by the fire of Mirabeau, the vanity of Orleans, and the cultured philosophy of the Girondins. A lawyer headed the League which heartened the English working classes in their struggle for the suffrage. The natives of Ireland made their first successful move towards independence under the Anglo-Saxon leadership of Parnell. It is possible to be too cynical. In some cases reformers have been sincerely impressed with the justice of their ideas, and ready to sacrifice themselves for their principles. But they have found that argument is of no avail with the conservatism of a king or an aristocracy; and when they have not been killed, banished or imprisoned, they have been ignored. It was necessary to secure some external support, and they might find this in the numbers of

the masses could these be roused into activity. For this something more was required than well-balanced reasoning : dispassionate exhortations would not draw the poorer classes in their multitudes to ~~de~~inonstitutive meetings which could be used to coerce the authorities. They could be electrified only by appeals to their passions, and especially to their jealousy or their self-esteem ; and the